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POZVANA PREDAVANJA / INVITED LECTURES
USMENA PRIOPĆENJA/ ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

RHEUMATOLOGY AND COVID-19 REPORTS: FOCUS ON DATA QUALITY AND RELIABILITY
REUMATOLOGIJA I COVID-19 IZVJEŠTAJI: USREDOTOČENOST NA KVALITETU PODATAKA I POUZDANOST

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The ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic necessitates mobilization of efforts to describe and correctly report various features of the disease and its prevention and management options. The absence of validated treatment strategies has promoted publication of numerous scientific hypotheses which still await testing in ethical studies. The initial original research reports on COVID-19 were published in some top medical journals and attracted a barrage of social media comments and citations. These reports have influenced related practice guidelines, including those in rheumatology. Numerous reports have published to empirically justify the use of anti-rheumatic drugs, including hydroxychloroquine. Regrettably, some of the related reported were retracted due to the lack of primary data veracity.
We have arranged two e-surveys exploring the attitude of scholars towards the flow of information on COVID-19 and the choice of target journals. The first survey among 128 respondents, with 60 (47%) being journal editors and editorial board members, allowed to conclude that social media channels were sources of both information and misinformation on COVID-19 (81 [63%] and 86 [67%], respectively). The respondents pointed to a high risk of plagiarism in the time of the pandemic (70 [59%]). The second survey among 108 scholars (65% researchers and 51% educators) revealed the preference of authors for targeting PubMed Central archived (66%) and free-of-charge (64%) journals. Some of the respondents claimed that they published in the so-called predatory journals (5%). The survey also revealed uncertainties over the use preprint servers among two-thirds of the surveyees. Post-publication promotion via social media channels was positively perceived by one-third of the respondents.
In these challenging times, it is of paramount importance to process validated information on COVID-19, moderate flow of information through specialist journals and reliable social media platforms, and guide practitioners encountering interdisciplinary issues of COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19, rheumatology, research integrity, social media, periodicals as topic
Ključne riječi: COVID-19, reumatologija, integritet istraživanja, društveni mediji, periodika kao tema

SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME AND SALIVARY GLAND ULTRASONOGRAPHY
SJÖGRENOV SINDROM I ULTRAZVUK ŽLIJEZDA SLINOVNICA

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Sjögren's syndrome (SS) is q frequent chronic, slowly progressive inflammatory disease, characterized histologically by dense lymphocytic infiltration of exocrine glands leading to glandular damage and dysfunction. Although the involvement of lachrymal and salivary glands (SG) represent the two most characteristic manifestations, clinical picture is heterogeneous, spanning from pain and fatigue, over various organ involvement to overt malignant lymphoproliferation. The diagnosis of SS is clinical, however in the absence of single specific diagnostic test

and diagnostic criteria, physicians commonly rely on a combination of several assessments and classification criteria. Various imaging techniques can be used to assist in the diagnostic work-up, among them B mode ultrasonography (US) seems the most. Typical US abnormalities of SG in SS are inhomogeneity with hypoechogenic areas, hyperechogenic reflections, and poorly defined salivary gland borders. The presence of hypoechogenic areas seems to be the most important feature. However, correlating histopathology to US findings remains difficult, and at histological level, the exact nature of the hypoechogenic areas and of hyperechogenic bands has not been elucidated yet. As in past decades, several different US scoring systems were developed to assess morphological changes of SG in SS, an international effort led recently to consensual semiquantitative US scoring (1). Studies showed that the addition of US could improve the performance of classification criteria but cannot substitute histopathology or immunoserological criterion. Next, associations between US and SG dysfunction, disease activity, antibody positivity, and various risk factors for lymphoma development were described. With time US detected morphological changes does not seem to change substantially, and US scores were found to be similar regardless of disease duration. Issue remains whether US is an appropriate tool, sensitive enough for monitoring treatment effect in SS. Currently SS lacks treatments that could prevent exocrine glandular damage, or its severe complications. However, several clinical trials of potential disease-modifying drugs are ongoing, and the results are excitedly waiting.

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Keywords: Sjögren's syndrome, salivary glands, ultrasonography.
Ključne riječi: Sjögrenov sindrom, žlijezde slinovnice, ultarsonografija

COVID-19 I REUMATSKE BOLESTI
COVID 19 AND RHEUMATIC DISEASES

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Prikazane su spoznaje o utjecaju pandemije COVID19 na zbrinjavanje oboljelih od upalnih reumatskih bolesti (URB) i URB na ishode COVID19. Pandemija zarazne bolesti uzrokovane novim korona virusom SARS CoV2 (COVID19) je dovela do otvaranja niza pitanja u reumatologiji. Od samog početka epidemije, složenost patogeneze COVID19 je rezultirala uključivanjem bazičnih i kliničkih imunologa te reumatologa u timove koji su istraživanjem imunoloških mehanizama razvoja limitirane respiratorne infekcije u sustavnu bolest s brojnim autoimunim fenomenima doprinijeli razvoju strategija prevencije i liječenja. Istraživanja pobola, obilježja, težine i smrtnosti COVID19 u oboljelih od upalnih reumatskih bolesti su uspjela demonstrirati specifične rizike poput povećanog rizika potrebe respiratorne potpore. URB ne predstavljaju jasni neovisni čimbenik rizik smrtnog ishoda u COVID19. Konvencionalni čimbenici rizika za loš ishod COVID19 su učestaliji u kohortama bolesnika s URB. Sustavne upalne bolesti vezivnog tkiva mogu predstavljati predispoziciju za razvoj težih oblika COVID 19 u odnosu na bolesnike s upalnim artritisima. Utjecaj terapije te kliničkih obilježja URB poput aktivnosti bolesti na ishode COVID 19 do sada nije dovoljno istražen. Podaci koje imamo iz globalnog registra govore o povećanom riziku hospitalizacije kod oboljelih od URB na dozama glukokortikoida preko 10 mg prednizona, dok je isti kod liječenih TNFi u jednom istraživanju rizik bio snižen. Ostali sintetski niti ciljani temeljni lijekovi nisu utjecali na stopu hospitalizacije. Istraživanja cjepiva nisu do sada obuhvatila oboljele od URB pa će se o učinkovitosti i sigurnosti cijepljenja u toj kategoriji bolesnika tek trebati znanstveno informirati. Iskustvo reumatologa i kliničkih imunologa, pogotovo pedijatrijskih i onih koji se bave sustavnim reumatskim bolestima je vrijedno u timskom liječenju oboljelih od COVID19. Ukratko su prikazane sličnosti CRS u autoimunim i autoinflamatornim sindromima i COVID 19. U radu su opisani problemi organizacije reumatološke službe tijekom pandemije.

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Keywords: COVID-19, rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases, systemic autoimmune diseases